



The City of Minneapolis

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A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

**By B. Johnson, Reich, Gordon, Frey, Yang, Warsame,
Goodman, Glidden, Cano, Bender, Quincy, A. Johnson, Palmisano**

Recognizing Spina Bifida Awareness.

Whereas, Spina Bifida is the most common permanently disabling birth defect in the United States. More people are born with Spina Bifida than cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis combined, yet most people are unfamiliar with this disability; and

Whereas, Spina Bifida is basically an opening in the spinal cord that occurs in the first 3 weeks of gestation. The nerves of the spine then protrude from an opening in the back. Spina Bifida literally means "split spine." A child born with Spina Bifida will need to have surgery within 48 hours of birth to close the back and protect the nerves. Nerve damage occurs during delivery and the surgery and can cause paralysis of the lower limbs, hydrocephalus, and bowel and bladder problems. Most people born with Spina Bifida will require a shunt to drain excess fluid from their brain (hydrocephalus), they will also require many surgical procedures throughout their lives, and see many different specialists regarding the many challenges they face; and

Whereas, Every day, about eight babies born in the United States have Spina Bifida or a similar birth defect of the brain and spine. It is estimated that there are over 166,000 people in the United States living with Spina Bifida; and

Whereas, The Minnesota Spina Bifida Association began in 1973, providing education and support to new families affected by the disease; and

Whereas, The Spina Bifida Association holds several social gatherings throughout the year, including golf tournaments and the annual Walk, Run & Roll, to raise awareness and money for research; and

Whereas, October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and is represented by a yellow ribbon;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City Council hereby declares October 27, 2014, to be Spina Bifida Awareness Day.

Passed, October 3, 2014

Barbara Johnson, President of the Council

Approved: Betsy Hodges, Mayor

Attest: Casey Carl, City Clerk